

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER



V O L U N T E E R N E W S L E T T E R - A P R I L 2 0 1 1

Coming Events

April 7 – Ice Cream Social /
Kickoff for volunteer training

April 14 – Volunteer training
Thursdays through May 5

April 18 – Potluck social with volunteers
from Shaw Ocean Discovery Center

April 22 and 23 – Klallam
Earth Day activities

April 23 – Washington Coastal Cleanup

April 26 – Brown bag lunch with guest
speaker Commander Hollingshead of USCG

May 12 – Field trip to Cape Flattery
and Makah Cultural Center

May 19 – Tidepool exploration
and picnic at Salt Creek

May 28 – Olympic Coast Discovery
Center open daily until September 5

June 29 to July 6 – Volunteer
exchange with Thunder Bay
National Marine Sanctuary



Seasonal Moorings

Patrick A'Hearn, OCNMS Oceanographer, talked with volunteers at our brown bag lunch on March 29 and explained how the sanctuary uses seasonal moorings to collect data about water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and phytoplankton at thirteen points offshore from Cape Alava south to Cape Elizabeth. The moorings, held in place by heavy steel anchors, are deployed in late April, and then pulled up approximately every six weeks throughout the summer for cleaning, downloading data, and redeploying. Locations are marked by a surface float with a 15' pole and flag, and GPS locations are recorded. Patrick explained how moorings are sometimes moved as much as one mile by winds and currents during storm events, so finding them again can be challenging. Sometimes equipment is snagged by commercial vessels, or lost for

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other reasons. Data collected gives researchers a picture of what's happening in the ocean, and correlates with observations made by COASST volunteers, Beach Watchers, and others. For example, in July of 2006 there was an extensive die-off of crab and fish caused by a hypoxic event which was clearly documented by data from the moorings. More information is available on the OCNMS website under Ongoing Research.



Volunteer Exchange with Shaw Ocean Discovery Center

Twelve volunteers from Sidney, British Columbia will arrive in Port Angeles about noon on Monday, April 18. They want to visit the Feiro Marine Life Center and the Olympic Coast Discovery Center to learn how we work with school groups; and they want to explore Port Angeles before leaving for home the next afternoon. Deborah and I haven't worked out a detailed schedule for their visit, but we are planning a potluck social Monday evening about 6:00. Feiro and OCDC volunteers are invited to bring hot dishes, salads or beverages; our guests will provide desserts. If you are able to join us for the evening, please let me know and tell me what you plan to bring so we can coordinate the meal. The majority of our guests will be staying at the Red Lion, not in private homes as we previously thought.

Expeditions Northwest

Jack Harmon, owner of Expeditions Northwest, talked to us about excursions his new company is offering aboard the 120' charter vessel Expeditions. The first trip, to the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival in April, is already sold out, but other excursions offered this summer include a sunset harbor cruise, an overnight excursion to Neah Bay, and several 2-day cruises to Vancouver Island and the San Juans. Plans are also underway for a murder mystery cruise, a bird watching tour, and possibly a trip through the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in September. Expeditions is also available for charter for special events for groups of up to 110 passengers. There will be a naturalist onboard many of the trips, and Expeditions will stop for whale watching whenever whales are spotted along the way. To learn more check out their website at www.ExpeditionsNW.com or stop in and chat with a representative on the first floor of the Landing building.

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Klallam Earth Day

The first annual Klallam Earth Day takes place April 22 and 23, with the goal of cleaning up 58 miles of beaches as well as riverbeds and other areas of the county. Teams are encouraged to sign up online at www.KlallamEarthDay.com. The OCDC team has taken on the challenge of cleaning up a half mile of beach on Ediz Hook beginning at 9:00 Saturday morning. The OCDC will be open both Friday and Saturday from noon to 4:00, right next door to the event headquarters at C4CD. The NOAA office in Seattle is also sending a representative to staff a marine debris exhibit in the Landing building. If you would like to help out either with the beach cleanup or in the OCDC, please let me know.

Volunteer Training

Volunteer training begins Thursday, April 7 at 2:00 p.m. with an ice cream social to welcome new volunteers. We will open the OCDC, play a slideshow highlighting our activities since summer of 2004, and serve up delicious ice cream sundaes. Please join us to help make new volunteers feel welcome and part of the group. Training continues on Thursday mornings through May 19. All volunteers are invited to attend any of the sessions for a refresher or to hear the latest updates from sanctuary staff.

April 14 – Introduction to National Marine Sanctuaries, OCNMS, and Ocean Literacy

April 21 – Maritime heritage (shipwrecks) and Current Issues (including ocean acidification) with guest speaker George Galasso, acting superintendent of OCNMS

April 28 – Research (including deep sea corals) and Marine Mammal strandings with research coordinator Ed Bowlby; and a visit to Feiro Marine Life Center

May 5 – Volunteering in Olympic Coast Discovery Center with guest speaker Greg Marsh of Olympic National Park

May 12 – Trip to Neah Bay including a guided tour of Makah Cultural Center and a walk to Cape Flattery

May 19 – Tongue Point tidepool exploration and picnic at Salt Creek County Park

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Alternate training is offered from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on May 3 and May 10 for anyone who is unable to attend on Thursday mornings. This abbreviated training will introduce much of the same basic content, but with no guest speakers or field trips.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining us, please encourage them to come to the ice cream social on April 7 to learn more about the program.

It is a carnivorous sponge that ingests small crustaceans. In our sanctuary it was documented in the Juan de Fuca Canyon at a depth of 846' deep. This discovery underscores how little is known about life in deepwater seafloor communities.



Carnivorous sponge

Researchers in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary have collected and imaged what appears to be a new species of *Asbestopluma*, similar to one found in the Channel Islands. It has been called it “palm frond” or “fan sponge”.